

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /093 W

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R 190520Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2256

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL PERTH BY MAIL

AMCONSUL BRISBANE BY MAIL

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY BY MAIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MELBOURNE 0833

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, AS

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON AMB GREEN MADE BY SENATOR WILLIAM BROWN ON JUNE 25

1. FOCUSED ATTENTION ON SOCIALIST LEFT FACTION OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY IN VICTORIA. DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE, BUT IT NOW BECOMES APPARENT THAT BROWN HAD NO SUPPORT AMONG PUBLIC, LITTLE SUPPORT WITHIN PARTY AND LIMITED SUPPORT EVEN WITHIN SOCIALIST LEFT FACTION. GENERAL OPINION IS THAT BROWN MADE A FOOL OF HIMSELF, AND PROBABLY WEAKENED THE CREDIBILITY OF EMOTIONAL LEFT-WING ANTI-AMERICANISM WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

2. FROM PUTSET SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND SUPPORT OF SENATOR BROWN WAS PUZZLE, EVEN WITHIN RANKDS OF SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN AUSTRALIA. QUICK REPUDIATION BY AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY PRESIDENT HAWKE ON JUNE 26 AND EXPRESSION OF DEEP REGRET BY MINISTER OF DEFENCE BARNARD ON SAME DAY, MADE IT CLEAR EARLY ON THAT BROWN WAS NOT IN ANY WAY REFLECTING OFFICIAL LAP POLICY. WEAK ENDORSEMENT GIVEN BY NOMINAL SOCIALIST-LEFT LEADER WILLIAM
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HARTLEY ON JUNE 27 WAS FIRST INDICATION THAT BROWN HAD LIMITED

SUPPORT WITHIN THAT FACTION. SIMILAR SUPPORT FROM TWO LEFT-WING ALP SENATORS, PRIMMER AND KEEFFE, DID NOT STRENGTHEN BROWN'S CASE. STATEMENTS MADE TO MELBOURNE CONGEN OFFICERS ON JULY FIRST BY SO-CALLED "4TH SULLY COMMITTEE", WHEN ONLY THREE MEMBERS OF SELEGATION SUPPORTED BROWN, INDICATED THAT BROWN'S INSPIRATION PROBABLY CAME FROM SMALL UNIT WITHIN MAOISTS AMONG THREE COMMUNISTS ROGANIZATIONS. MEANWHILE, PUBLIC ATTITUDE OF DISAPPROVAL HAS BEEN AMPLY REFLECTED IN REPUDIATION OF BORWN CARRIED BY ALL SECTORS OF MEDIA.

3. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION LEADER CLYDE HOLDING, CONGEN OFFICERS LEARNED ON JULY 2 THAT BROWN HAD REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH REQUEST FROM ALP STATE PRESIDENT TED INNES TO SHARE HIS INFORMATION WITH STATE PARTY EXECUTIVE. HOLDING GIVES HIS EDUCATED GUES THAT "BROWN HAS BEEN SOLD PART OF A LINE", AND THAT HE WAS "IDIOT ENOUGH TO BUY IT". LABOR LEADER USED THIS TO ILLUSTRATE CONTINUING DISARRAY AMONG ULTRA-LEFT WING OF VICTORIAN ALP.

4. UNEASY WEEK STARTING WITH BROWN'S ATTACKS WAS PARTLY CLARIFIED BY HAWKE'S DENUNCIATION OF BROWN AND WAS BROUGHT TO AN END BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S PUBLIC REPUDIATION OF BROWN ON JULY 2, MAKING ISOLATION OF BROWN WITHIN PARTY COMPLETE.

5. MOST DAMNING ACCUSATION CAME FROM BROWN'S OWN MOUTH WHEN, ON JULY 4, HE FAILED TO SUBSTANTIATE IN ANY WAY HIS HALF-FORMED CHARGES AGAINST THE AMBASSADOR. HE SLIPPED TO PAGE 5 IN JULY 6 PAPERS WITH HIS CHARGE THAT AMBASSADOR GREEN "HIRES KILLERS" AND HAS SINCE DISAPPEARED FROM PRESS.

6. IT NOW SEEMS FAIR CONSENSUS, WHICH INCLUDES OPINIONS OF DLP EX-SENATOR FRANK MCMANUS, LIBERAL SENATOR IVOR GREENWOOD, ALP'S BOB HAWKE AND CLYDE HOLDING, AND VICTORIAN TRADE UNION LEADERS, THAT BROWN HAD NOT READ STATEMENT OF JUNE 25 BEFORE IT WAS DELICERED IN HIS NAME. HE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN TOLD BY UNSPECIFIED LEFT-WING FRIENDS OF THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST AMBASSADOR GREEN, AND HE HAD REPORTEDLY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO LEND HIS NAME ON THE CNDITION THAT FACTS SUBSTANTIATING CHARGES WOULD BE PLACED IN HIS HANDS ON OR BEFORE JULY 4. IN THE EVENT, HIS INFORMERS FAILED TO DELIVER THE FACTS AND BROWN WENT THROUGH PUBLIC PERFORMANCE AT MELBOURNE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MASS MEETING ON JULY 4 WHIC MADE HIM PHYSICALLY ILL AND FRUSTRATED AT ITS END. PRESS REPORTED HIS BRISBANE MEETING ENDED IN GRIMACES OF PAIN. THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN HIM IN THE WEEK OF JULY 15-20 HAVE SAID HE IS OBVIOUSLY NOT FEELING WELL.

7. VICTORIA GOVERNOR SIR HENRY WINNEKE, SPEAKERS OF BOTH CHAMBERS IN STATE PARLIAMENT, AND MANY OTHER POLITICAL, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ALL TOOK GREAT EXCEPTION TO

BROWN ATTACK, GENERALLY TAKING ADVANTAGE COURTESY CALLS MADE BY NEWLY ARRIVED CONGEN TO MAKE CLEAR UNDIMINISHED LOYALTY TO AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. OTHER CONGEN OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS TOO NUMEROUS TO REPORT INDIVIDUALLY. TYPICALLY, IN "BREAD AND BUTTER" NOTE AFTER INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION, MELBOURNE LORD MAYOR ALAN WHALLEY WROTE OF HIS PLEASURE IN ATTENDING "DESPITE VAPORINGS OF VOCIFEROUS AND MINDLESS MINORITY".

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8. PRIOR TO JUNE 25 "BILL BROWN" WAS NOT NOTICEABLY REPORTABLE BY CONGEN OBSERVERS. RECORDS IN MELBOURNE INDICATE THAT HE HAD NOT HAD ANY PROMINENCE FOR SOME YEARS PAST. BROWN'S FATHER WAS FOR MANY YEARS SECRETARY OF THE FURNISHING TRADES UNION AND THE YOUNGER BROWN BECAME A MINOR OFFICIAL OF THE UNION. FOR SOME TIME PRIOR TO 1956 BROWN AND HIS FATHER WERE FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS OF THE OLD ALP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. BOB SANTAMARIA TOLD CONGEN THAT WHEN THE VICTORIAN ALP EXECUTIVE SPLIT IN 1956 AND THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY WAS FORMED, BROWN ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE ALP GROUP ON MORE RADICAL LINES. UNDER AGEIS OF ALBERT MCNULTY, VICTORIAN TRADEUNION LEADR OF THE DAY, BROWN WAS ELECTED TO NEW EXECUTIVE

OF ALP. HE BECAME PRESIDENT IN 1965. THE ALP IN VICTORIA
SUFFERED SUCCESSIVE ELECTORAL DISASTERS IN CAMPAIGNS DIRECTED
JOINTLY BY BROWN AND WILLIAM HARTLEY, THEN EMERGING AS THE RADICAL
LEADER. HUNER PRESSURE FROM ALP FEDERAL EXECUTIVE, BROWN
THREATENED TO FORM A BREAKAWAY INDIVIDUAL LABOR PARTY IN 1969.
THIS LED TO INTERVENTION IN THE VICTORIAN ALP STATE ORGANIZATION
BY THE FEDERAL PARTY, WHEN VICTORIAN AFFAIRS WERE RUN BY AN
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTED UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF CLYDE
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CAMERON, NOW MINISTER OF LABOR. FRUSTRATED BY FEDERAL INTERVENTION,
BROWN RAN FOR COVER BY HAVING HIMSELF ELCTED BY THE STATE
PARLIAMENTARY ALP TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM IN FEDERAL SENATE SEAT
VACATED BY DEATH OF HIGHLY RESPECTED LABOR SENATOR SAM COHEN.
THE VICTORIAN SOCIALIST LEFT HAS NEVER FORGIVEN BROWN FOR WHAT
THEY REGARDED AS HIS DEFECTION AT THAT TIME. HIS SUPPORT DWINDLED
TO ALMOST NOTHING. IN 1971, BROWN FAILED TO GET ENOUGH SUPPORT
TO BE ELECTED AS STATE DELEGATE TO ALP BI-ANNUAL FEDERAL CON-
FERENCE. BROWN GOT TWO VOTES OUT OF SEVERAL HUNDRED CAST AT STATE
CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, HE WAS SAFE IN HIS FEDERAL SENATE SEAT UNTIL
THE DOUBLE DISSOLUTION IN MAY 1974. AT THAT TIME THE VICTORIAN
ALP HAD NO TIME TO GO THROUGH COMPLETE PRE-SELECTION PROCESS IN
FORMING ITS SENATE TICKET FOR THE SNAP ELECTION. THEREFORE,
BROWN, AS A SITTING MEMBER, GOT FREE RIDE INTO SENATE FOR NEXT
SIX YEARS. FACT OF HIS ECLIPSE FOR SUCH LONG PERIOD IS CITED BY
SEVERAL CONGEN INFORMANTS AS REASON FOR BROWN'S RECENT EXERCISE
IN ADVENTURISM. ACCORDING TO ALP SOURCES, BROWN SOUGHT TO RE-
ESTABLISH POWER BASE WITHIN SOCIALIST LEFT IN VICTORIA, BUT IN
MOST PEOPLE'S OPINION, HAS FAILED BADLY.

9. CONGEN FURTHER COMMENTS IT IS GROWING CONSENSUS AFTER
STUDYING BROWN'S JULY 4 DAMP SQUID THAT REAL TARGET WAS
PROFESSOR RICHARD WALKER OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK ON CAMPUS OF MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY
ON JULY 16. CANCELLATION OF JULY 16 MEETING ON JULY 5 AVOIDED
NASTY, UNPRODUCTIVE CONFRONTATION, AFTERMATH OF WHICH CONGEN
WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH FOR LONG TIME.
BRAND

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